

Message Text

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50

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01

DRC-01 FEA-02 EB-11 NIC-01 COME-00 AID-20 OPR-02 /194 W

----- 122835

R 271618Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7119

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USINT DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USINT BAGHDAD

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GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PFOR XF LE

SUBJECT: CURRENT LEFTIST PROPAGANDA ACTIVITIES IN LEBANON

REF: BEIRUT 3167

SUMMARY: IN ADDITION TO CONCERN WITH INTERNAL SITUATION, LEFTIST PROPAGANDA AND POLITICAL ACTION CAMPAIGN REPORTED REFTEL HAS CONTINUED THROUGHOUT PAST WEEK, WITH LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY, IRAQ AND LIBYA STILL
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IN LEADING ROLE BUT WITH SYRIA BEGINNING LEND ITS

WEIGHT TO NEGATIVISTS AND PLO PROTECTING ITSELF BY
MEANS NEGATIVE NOISES. END SUMMARY.

1. LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY WEEKLY AL AKHBAR IN MAR 23
ISSUE CONTINUES EARLIER ATTACKS ON EGYPTIAN POLICY AND
SADAT (WE NOTE SIMILAR ATTACKS ARE ALSO BEGINNING SURFACE
IN MOSCOW). MAGAZINE TAKES SPECIFIC ISSUE WITH SADAT'S
STATEMENT TO NEWSWEEK THAT USG POLICY HAS IMPROVED,
CLAIMING THAT AS RESULT EGYPT'S "ENDLESS CONFIDENCE IN
GOOD INTENTIONS OF USG" IT HAS ABANDONED SEVERAL FUNDA-
MENTAL ARAB POSITIONS. YET, ARGUES AKHBAR, ISRAEL AND
USG HAVE NOT CHANGED THEIR BASIC POSITIONS AND ALL
EGYPT HAS OBTAINED IS "TINY DISENGAGEMENT ACCORD FOR ONE
FRONT" AND VAGUE PROMISES BY KISSINGER. USG POLICY IN
ME IS DEPICTED AS ONE AIMED AT "MAINTAINING SUBSERVIENT
RELATIONSHIP" ON PART OF EGYPT AND ALL OTHER COUNTRIES
OF "THIRD WORLD". AKHBAR CLAIMS NASSERISM BEING LIQUIDATED,
OIL EMBARGO ABANDONED, AND WESTERN EUROPE AND "THIRD WORLD"
UPSET ALL BECAUSE EGYPT FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS OF USG.

2. OTHER LEFTIST MEDIA, PARTICULARLY THE DAILY AND WEEKLY
PAPERS HEAVILY SUBSIDIZED BY IRAQ (DAILY AL MUHARRIR AND
WEEKLIES AL HADAF AND AD DUSTOUR) AND LIBYA (DAILY AS
SAFIR AND WEEKLY BEIRUT AL MASSA), HAVE ALSO ATTACHED
SADAT FOR ALLEGEDLY TRYING DESTROY NASSERISM AND SELL
OUT TRUE ARABS AND PALESTINIANS BY COOPERATING WITH USG.
THERE HAS BEEN SHARP EXCHANGE OF CHARGES BETWEEN AL AHRAH
OF CAIRO AND AL MUHARRIR HERE, AS WELL AS SPECIAL VISIT
TO BEIRUT BY ALI AMIN AND LEBANESE AMBASSADOR, INDICATING
CONCERN WITH WHICH GOE VIEWS HOSTILE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN
HERE. SAME LEFTIST PAPERS HAVE ALSO ATTACKED POLICIES
OF SAUDI ARABIA, ESSENTIALLY FOR SAME REASONS WITH
SPECIAL ATTENTION GIVEN TO LIFTING OF OIL EMBARGO. PASS-

ING THROUGH BEIRUT ENROUTE TO TUNIS, SAUDI FOREIGN MINISTER
IS RELIABLY REPORTED TO HAVE EXPRESSED OFFICIAL CONCERN
TO GOVERNMENT OVER THESE ATTACKS.

3. COMMUNIST AND IRAQI PAPERS HAVE DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE
SPACE TO CHARGES THAT KURDISH LEADER BARZANI IS ACTING
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AS STOOGE FOR IRAN, ISRAEL AND, ULTIMATELY, THE UNITED
STATES. AL AKHBAR DEPICTS BARZANI ACTION AS MOVEMENT
AIMED AT REASSERTING AMERICAN INFLUENCE THROUGHOUT ARAB
WORLD, AND AT "DESTROYING SOVIET-ARAB FRIENDSHIP WITH ALL
IT REPRESENTS IN POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY
SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL ARAB LIBERATION MOVEMENT."

4. PLO HAS BECOME MORE NEGATIVE IN PUBLIC STAND, PUB-

LISHING ARTICLE IN OFFICIAL BULLETIN (Wafa) OPPOSING
REMOVAL OF OIL EMBARGO AND PLACING INTERVIEWS WITH 'ARAFAT
AND OTHER LEADERS IN VARIOUS PAPERS IN ORDER CONVEY
IMPRESSION THAT PLO HAS NOT ABANDONED BASIC OFFJECTIVE
OF SINGLE PALESTINIAN STATE THROUGHOUT ALL OF FORMER
MANDATE AND IS STILL NOT PREPARED MAKE ANY AGREEMENT WITH
KING HUSSEIN'S GOVERNMENT.

5. SYRIAN GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN LETTING IT BE KNOWN
THROUGH MEDIA, ALTHOUGH NOT FOR OFFICIAL RECORD, THAT
IT IS VERY UNHAPPY WITH LIFTING OF OIL EMBARGO AND ROLE
OF EGYPT AND SAUDI ARABIA THEREIN. SA'IQA LEADER ZOHAYR
MUHSEN CONTINUES TAKE HARD LINE IN PUBLIC RE PALESTINIAN
PRESENCE AT GENEVA.

6. INTERESTING JOINT ENTERPRISE BY VARIOUS LEFTIST
GROUPS IS "MARCH" ON DAMASCUS SCHEDULED FOR MAR 30.
IDEA OF MARCH WAS ORIGINALLY GENERATED SEVERAL WEEKS
AGO BY IRAQ, PFLP AND LIBYA (IN FORM OF "REFUSAL FRONT")
IN ORDER TRY AND PRESSURE SARG INTO TOUGHER STAND ON
DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL AND INTO OPTING FOR
UNION, OR AT LEAST SOLIDARITY, WITH IRAQ. CONCEPT
APPEARED TO HAVE MANY SIMILARITIES WITH LIBYAN
"MARCH" ON CAIRO LAST FALL. SUBSEQUENTLY, WE UNDERSTAND
THAT SARG DECIDED TO EASE PRESSURE ON ITSELF BY UN-
OFFICIALLY JOINING SPONSORS OF MARCH AND AGREEMENT RECEIVE
MARCHERS IN EXCHANGE FOR ALTERATIONS OF BASIC
THEME. IN THIS WAY SARG WOULD APPEAR TO REMAIN IN
VANGUARD OF ARAB NATIONALISM AND INCREASE PRESSURES ON
EGYPT, SAUDI ARABIA AND, ULTIMATELY, USG TO OBTAIN WHAT
ASSAD NEEDS FROM ISRAEL IN WAY OF DISENGAGEMENT CONCESSIONS.

7. PRO-CAIRO AND PRO-SAUDI PRESS ATTEMPTING UPHOLD ITS
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SIDE OF DEBATE, BUT MASSIVE BACKING BEING PROVIDED TO
LEFTIST PRESS HAS MUTED ITS EFFECTIVENESS.

DECON 3/27/75.
GODLEY

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